

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. A Petition for Revival of an Unintentionally Abandoned Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) is being filed herewith. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found, for example, at paragraph [0009] of the specification. New claims 15-26 have been added. Support for the features of claims 15-26 may be found, for example, in original claim 1 and paragraph [0009] of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application by the foregoing amendments.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure for exceeding 150 words.

Applicant has deleted the original Abstract of the Disclosure and replaced it with a new Abstract of the Disclosure in accordance with U.S. patent practice. The new Abstract of the Disclosure is shown in clean form on the attached sheet and contains less than 150 words.

Additionally, paragraph [0021] of the specification has been amended to correct formal matters noted by Applicant. Support for the addition of the word “not” may be found in the fourth sentence of paragraph [0021].

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 for containing the noted informality. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to read “a table frame...” Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection – § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0032563 to Sines (“Sines”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0064767 to Brown (“Brown”) and U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0064798 to Grauzer et al. (“Grauzer”). The Examiner contends that Sines in view of Brown and Grauzer discloses each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully, traverses this rejection.

Sines teaches a method for playing a poker-like game. Sines teaches dealing an initial hand (see paragraph [0025]) and determining whether a qualifying hand has been dealt (see paragraph [0032]). Sines teaches exchanging at least one card with the house, accepting an initial bet, accepting an ante, and awarding the pot to the player with the best hand that is a qualifying hand. Sines provides for a gaming table, including a plurality of user interfaces (see paragraph [0066]). As shown in FIG. 3, the user interfaces in Sines are located in clear view of all players. Sines is silent with respect to keeping the cards confidential or obscuring cards from the view of others.

Brown discloses a system and method for playing a card game in which cards are printed and discarded each time a game is played (see paragraph [0020]). Brown further teaches displaying “up cards” on a common video monitor (see paragraph [0018]).

Grauzer teaches a secure casino table gaming system including a central gaming control computer and a table game controller computer that may include a random number generator (see paragraph [0073]).

Independent claim 1 recites:

An electronic game table for at least two players comprising: a table frame; a plurality of individual player terminals arranged in said table, each with a terminal display and data input means; a central processing unit connected to each of said individual player terminals for bi-directional data exchange with each of said individual player terminals, said central processing unit configured to cause the display of confidential cards on each of said terminal displays; and a common display in a position visible to said at least two players and connected to said central processing unit; said central processing unit containing a random combination generator.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references, when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. See MPEP 2143.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1. In particular, such combination does not teach or suggest a “central processing unit configured to cause the display of confidential cards on each of said terminal displays.” Although Sines teaches dealing “an initial hand of at least one card to each of at least two players by way of the user interface corresponding to the player,” these cards are not displayed in a confidential manner. Rather, as shown in FIG. 3, the displays in Sines are located in clear view of all players and Sines does not discuss the confidentiality of the displayed cards. Further, neither Brown nor Grauzer teach a “central processing unit configured to cause the display of confidential cards on each of said terminal displays.” Since the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer fails to teach this feature, the Examiner has not met the *prima facie* burden of obviousness with respect to claim 1.

Similarly with respect to independent claim 19, the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer does not teach a player display that is “configured to present virtual cards to a player such that the display of the virtual cards is obscured from other player positions.” Although Sines provides for a gaming table, including a plurality of user interfaces, as shown in FIG. 3, these user interfaces are not “configured to present virtual cards to a player such that the display of the virtual cards is obscured from other player positions.” In fact, these displays are located in clear view of all players at the table and there is no discussion in Sines of how to keep the display of virtual cards on a display obscured from the view of other players. Further, neither Brown nor Grauzer teach a player display “configured to present virtual cards to a player such that the display of the virtual cards is obscured from other player positions.” Since the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer fails to teach this feature, the proposed combination fails to teach every feature of claim 19.

With respect to independent claim 21, the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer does not teach player displays that are “configured to present virtual pocket cards” or a CPU that is “configured to deal said virtual pocket cards to the player displays.” Although Sines teaches dealing “an initial hand of at least one card to each of at least two players...” these cards are not pocket cards. Sines does not mention pocket cards. Furthermore, Sines does not even teach a card game where individual players do not know what cards are held by their competitors. As shown in FIG. 3, the displays (and therefore the content displayed on the displays) in Sines are located in clear view of all players. Thus, these displays could not possibly be used for displaying pocket cards because the displays do not keep cards private, so that only the intended player may view his pocket cards. Further, neither Brown nor Grauzer teach player displays that are “configured to present virtual pocket cards” or a CPU that is “configured to deal said virtual pocket cards to the player displays.” Since the combination of Sines, Brown, and Grauzer fails to teach this feature, the proposed combination fails to teach every feature of claim 21.

Dependent claims 2-18, 20, and 22-26 are allowable at least by their dependency on independent claim 1, 19, and 21 respectively. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner’s § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-14 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

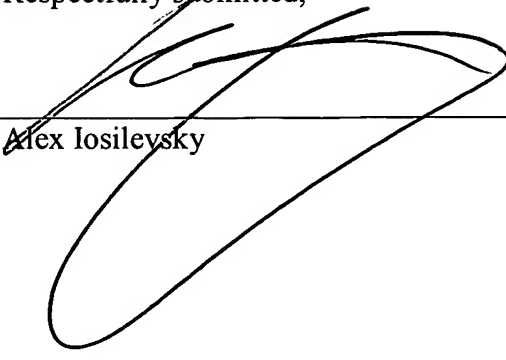
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections and objections have been overcome, and that the application, including claims 1-26, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and objections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 06/02/06

By: _____

Alex Iosilevsky

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the signature line and extending upwards into the 'Respectfully submitted,' area.